



77

Library

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Windmill Lane, Northam, Nr. Bideford
Telephone Bideford 3999

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the
URBAN DISTRICT OF
NORTHAM
for the year
1966

E. WILLIAMS
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

C. J. UTTING
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To : The Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District Council of
Northam.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1966.

Public Health Committee. Year 1966/67.

Chairman : W. J. V. Lamey.

Councillors	R. H. K. Evers	J. O. Morrish
	A. S. Harman, M.B.E.	G. Northcott
	W. J. Harris, O.B.E.	J. T. Payne
	Mrs. E. M. Hilder	Mrs. G. E. Robinson
	H. E. Hopkins	A. C. Saunders
	T. P. Keene, J.P.	J. M. Wright

Staff

The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

Part-time Officer.

E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

Whole-time Officer.

C. J. Utting, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

Part-time Typist.

Mrs. S. Rose (to 25/4/66).
Miss L. M. Smith (from 26/4/66 to 2/10/66).
Miss P. M. Owen (from 3/10/66).

General Statistics of the District.

Area in Acres	4,134
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate	7,220
Population at 1961 Census	6,572
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.66)	£230,580
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1966/67	£954
General Rate per £ for Year 1966/67	10s. 8d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (31.12.66)	2,979
Number of Council Houses (31.12.66)	290
Density of Persons per House	2.42

Extracts from Vital Statistics :—

Births : Area Comparability Factor	1.27
Deaths : Area Comparability Factor	0.70

Vital Statistics.

Live Births

Number	89
Rate per 1,000 population	12.33
Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comparability Factor	15.66
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	10.11

Stillbirths

Number	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	21.96
Total Live and Still Births	91
Infant Deaths (death under 1 year)	4

Infant Mortality Rates

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	44.94
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	44.94
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000

Total Live Births)	33.7
--------------------------	------

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per

1,000 Total Live Births)	33.7
--------------------------------	------

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and Deaths under 1

week combined per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	54.9
--	------

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Deaths	0
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births.	0

Deaths.	124
--------------	-----

Death Rate per 1,000 population.	17.17
---------------------------------------	-------

Death Rate per 1,000 population adujusted by Compara- bility Factor	12.02
--	-------

Births.

During the year there were 89 births which was 11 more than occurred in 1965.

Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	35	45	80
Illegitimate	6	3	9
			<hr/> 89 <hr/>

Still Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			<hr/> 2 <hr/>

Deaths.

The total number of deaths of Urban District residents during the year was 124 — as compared with 112 during 1965.

	Males	Females	Total
	71	53	124
Death Rate : per 1,000 population (adjusted)			12.02
Death Rate : England and Wales (adjusted)			11.7

Death of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	Males		Females	
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Under 1 year of age	1	0	3	0
Under 4 weeks of age	1	0	2	0
Under one week of age	1	0	2	0

Maternal Mortality.

No deaths of Mothers in childbirth occurred during the year.

Cancer Deaths.

There were 28 Cancer deaths as compared with 24 in 1965.

	Males	Females	
Stomach	5	4	
Lungs and Bronchus	6	—	
Breast	—	1	
Uterus	—	1	
Others	8	3	
	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 9	Total 28

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 107 cases of Infectious diseases were notified :—

Measles	106
Lung Tuberculosis	1 female aged 52

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life during 1966 in the Urban District of Northam—continued.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	AGE IN YEARS										
			Under 4 weeks										
			4 weeks/under 1 year										
			1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over		
Influenza	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
	F	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	5	—
Bronchitis	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other Disease of Respiratory System	M	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	M	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	71	1	1	—	1	1	—	13	25	21	—	—
	F	53	2	—	—	—	—	8	9	11	27	—	—

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

This section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons who are in need of attention from their own homes to a County Welfare Home.

No cases were dealt with under this section during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE.

1. Immunisation and Vaccination.

Protective Immunisation, and Vaccination against Diphtheria Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics.

There are two Infant Welfare Clinics in the Urban District; one at Northam and one at Appledore. Clinics are held fortnightly.

2. Meals on Wheels.

A meals on wheels service is provided for the aged in the Urban District. Forty-two cooked meals are prepared each week at "Fairlea,"—the County Welfare Home, and are delivered by the Womens' Voluntary Service to Northam, Appledore and Westward Ho! residents.

3. Infectious Diseases.

There is an Infectious Disease section at the Kingsley Hospital Bideford which serves Northam as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

4. Smallpox.

All Smallpox cases are sent to LISKEARD Smallpox Hospital. Plymouth Ambulance Service will provide transport for smallpox cases. Telephone number: Plymouth 64101.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have much pleasure in submitting a report on the sanitary administration of the area for the year 1966.

This year the Public Health Department was separated from the Surveyors Department with the appointment of a new Surveyor on April 1st. The Department has temporarily taken on the inspection of approximately two-thirds of the drainage in the area which has amounted to almost a third of the total visits made during the year. It is hoped that with the appointment of a Technical Assistant to the Surveyor who is shortly to commence duties, that the supervision of some of the new drainage will be returned to the Surveyors Department.

In February the Council made Closing Orders in respect of underground rooms at Kipling Terrace, Clevelands Terrace, and Newquay Street. Some of these rooms are still temporarily occupied until suitable housing becomes available. Appeals by the owners were upheld at the County Court concerning 5 of the rooms at Kipling Terrace.

The Butchers premises of A. P. Tucker and Sons Ltd., were successfully prosecuted at Bideford Magistrates Court in December for eight offences under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 and the Food and Drugs Act 1955. Fines totalling £25 were imposed together with £5 for costs.

Despite advertising in the local press of the availability of Improvement Grants the number of applications has decreased as compared with the previous year. This is considered to be due to the low controlled rents that are statutorily imposed for the first three years and the present shortage of capital generally available to the owners.

Following a complaint from a tenant of a caravan concerning the site conditions a detailed report of all twelve caravan sites in the area is in the process of preparation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

C. J. UTTING.

SUMMARY OF VISITS.

General Sanitation.

Water Supply	2
Drainage	521
Tents, Vans and Sheds	53
Noise	13
Factories	12
Outworkers	5
Swimming Baths	26
Rent Act	2
Licensed Premises	4
Refuse Collection	1
Refuse Disposal	3
Rats and Mice	151
Atmospheric Pollution	6
Shops and Offices	50
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	51
Building Surveying	10

Housing

Houses inspected under Public Health Act	35
Re-Visits paid to the above	32
Visits under Housing Act.	54
Re-Visits paid to the above	107
Overcrowding, number houses inspected	1
Re-Visits paid to the above	2
Filthy or Verminous Premises. No. of Houses Inspected ...	19
Re-Visits paid to above	3
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	40
Improvement Grants	113

Infectious Diseases.

Visits regarding Disinfection.	7
-------------------------------------	---

Meat and Food Inspection.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	6
Visits to	
Hotels	11
Butchers	18
Dairies and Milk Distributors	4
Food Preparing Premises	1
Grocers	23
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	1
Ice-Cream Premises	11
Restaurants	32
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts.	24
Schools	1
Institutions	3
Clubs	1
Licensed Premises	6
Bakeries	12
Canteens	2
Visits in Connection with Sampling.	
Sewage	9
Ice-Cream	72
Food	4
Water	8
Swimming Baths	32
Miscellaneous Food Visits	55
Total of all Visits	1659

The following is a list of Food Premises in the District.

Bread and Cakes	4
Cafes and Restaurants	19
Dairies	3
Fish and Chips	4
Fruit and Vegetables	7
Groceries and General Provisions	24
Ice-Cream	3
Meat	7
Public Houses	21
Hotels and Holiday Camps	12
Sweets and Confectionery	10
Total	114

All these premises comply, or are in the process of complying with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Sampling.

Ice-Cream.

Number of samples taken	25
Number of samples found unsatisfactory	3
Number of premises etc., selling un-wrapped ice-cream	24

The wrapped ice cream is decreasing in popularity and being replaced by the cone and the wafer. This necessitates handling of the ice cream by the retailer and I have confined the sampling to these premises. Contamination usually occurs in the water used to rinse the handling equipment and in most cases where the sample was unsatisfactory the necessary sterilant had not been added.

Food.

The County Council being the Food and Drugs Authority, took 18 formal samples of various foods during the year including 14 samples of milk. All the samples were found to be genuine.

Condemned Food.

105 lbs. of food was found to be unfit for human consumption and was voluntarily surrendered. The food was so disposed of as to prevent it being used for human consumption.

Improvement Grants.

13 applications for a standard improvement grant were approved and payment has been made on 9 completed improvements.

3 previously approved discretionary grants were completed and paid this year.

Complaints.

During the year 149 complaints have been received and the majority have been satisfactorily dealt with.

Water Supply

The water supply in the area is undertaken by the North Devon Water Board and has been found to be satisfactory in bacteriological quality but complaints have been received concerning the taste and appearance.

The cause of the acidic taint found in some cases is due to the presence of chlorine which is intended to protect the supply from bacteriological contamination. In many areas the supply pipes are connected to new or repaired pipes and in such cases a liberal dose of chlorine is administered. The cloudy appearance of the water is usually due to rust particles which accumulates in the pipes and have been disturbed.

In all cases where complaints are received samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter for examination. Four complaints were received this year and all were found to be bacteriologically unjustified. The North Devon Water Board inform me that 36 routine samples were taken in the area and all were found satisfactory. I have not found it necessary to take any chemical samples.

As far as it is known all dwellinghouses in the district are now supplied from the public water main although there are still some houses which have stand-pipes in the yard. The precise number is not known.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The facilities for disposal of sewage in the area is generally unsatisfactory being either by untreated discharge to the river or sea, or by septic tank and land drainage. The existing main sewers are continually being added to as new estates are developed and under certain storm and tidal conditions are subject to surcharge.

The Council are at present engaged in producing a comprehensive sewage disposal scheme for the whole area and it is hoped that it will be completed as soon as possible. In a few cases sewage has been found discharging on to the public highway and strenuous efforts have been taken to prevent this from occurring.

Poultry Inspection.

There is only one poultry processing premises in the district to which 6 visits were made during the year. A total of approximately 5,000 birds were processed consisting of 3,400 turkeys, 1,000 hens and 500 capons and 100 ducks. Approximately 2% of the hens were rejected as unfit for human consumption totalling 100 lbs. in weight.

This establishment is considered to be processing birds under satisfactory conditions with the minimum of cruelty. As the slaughtering is carried out over three days during each week I do not have sufficient time available to inspect the carcasses and offal, and great reliance is placed on the processor to voluntarily withdraw birds that are unfit for human consumption.

Factories.

Cases in which defects were found

Number of cases in which defects were found					
Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to HM Inspect.	Referred by HM Inspect.	Number of cases in which prose- cutions instit.
1. Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
2. Overcrowding (S. 2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
3. Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
4. Inadequate ventilation (S. 4.)	—	—	—	—	—
5. Ineffective drainage of floors. (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
6. Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7.)	—	—	—	—	—
a. Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
b. Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
c. Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
7. Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	—	—	—

Factories.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
2. Factories not included in 1, which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	18	8	2	—
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	18	8	2	—

Outwork

	Section 110			Section 111		
Nature of work	Number of Outworkers in Aug. list (S.110 1c).	Number of cases of default in sending lists	Number of Prosecutions for failure to send list	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (making etc.)	24	—	—	—	—	—